

$1\frac{1}{2}$ inch high, covered at its blind end with the crypts of shallow glands, which also run down its sides. That it is a modification of the *bursa Fabricii* cannot be doubted.

EXPLANATION OF THE PLATES.

PLATE XXVI.

- Fig. 1. View of left side of neck of *Plotus ankinga*, dissected. *l.c.a.* longus colli anterior muscle; *l.c.p.* longus colli posterior muscle. The fibrous representative of Donitz's bridge is seen attached to the ninth cervical vertebra.
2. View of part of the posterior region of the neck of *Plotus ankinga*. The roman figures refer to the cervical vertebrae counted from the head. Donitz's bridge is seen attached to the ninth; and at *a* is also seen a fibrous band, which is of similar function, attached to the eleventh. At *b* is seen the fasciculus of the tendon of the posterior neck-muscle which traverses the fibrous loop, which latter has been removed on the left side.

PLATE XXVII.

- View of the anterior thoracic region of *Plotus ankinga*, dissected to show the superficial (*p. 1, 1*) and deep layer (*p. 1, 2*) of the pectoralis major muscle on the right side, as well as the pectoralis minor (*p. 2*) on the left. The insertion of the deeper layer of the pectoralis major is seen to be surrounded by the much more considerable mass of the similar portion of the superficial stronger layer. The triceps (*t*) and the biceps (*b*) of the cubitus are seen on the right side, as is the patagial slip (*b. s*) of the latter. The sternum (*st.*) is superficially bound to the lower end of the coracoid bone by the anterior sterno-coracoid ligament (*ant. st. cor. lig*), which is particularly powerful in the Steganopods and Storks.

PLATE XXVIII.

- Fig. 1. View of top of head of *Plotus ankinga*, showing the occipital style (*a*) and the temporal muscle (*t*) arising from it on one side.
2. Stomach of *Plotus ankinga*, inside view.
3. Anterior view of the lower end of the trachea in *Plotus ankinga*.
4. The same in *Sula bassana*.
- 5 & 6. Top and side view of the patella in *Phalacrocorax carbo*, showing the canal for the ambiens muscle. *N.B.* The side view (fig. 6) is accidentally drawn with the base uppermost.
7. Front of patella in *Plotus ankinga* deeply grooved by ambiens muscle.

2. Remarks on a Hybrid between the Black Grouse and the Hazel Grouse. By H. E. DRESSER, F.Z.S.

Amongst the Gallinaceous birds, and especially amongst the Ducks, we not unfrequently find wild hybrids; and not a few of these hybrids have during the last year or two been exhibited at the meetings of this Society—but none, I may almost venture to say, so interesting as the bird I have now the pleasure to exhibit before the meeting; for there can be no doubt that it is a wild cross between the Black Grouse (*Tetrao tetrax*) and the Hazel Grouse (*Bonasa betulina*), a cross that has, so far as I can ascertain, never yet been recorded. The *Rackelvogel* of the Swedes, the hybrid between the Capercailly and the Black Grouse, is by no means uncommon, especially in places where the males of the Capercailly have been

shot off; and I have seen several interesting hybrids between the Black Grouse and the Willow Grouse. Mr. Collett names an instance of a male Willow Grouse having been seen to pair with a barndoor Fowl; and I have heard of the Black Grouse crossing with the Red Grouse; but I have never seen a specimen of a hybrid between these two; and I may add that I can find no record in the works of the Scandinavian authors of a hybrid between the Hazel Grouse and the Black Grouse having hitherto been met with. The specimen exhibited belongs to John Flower, Esq., F.Z.S., who has intrusted it to me for examination and exhibition, and who gives me the following particulars respecting it:—

“I bought this bird of W. Smithers, poulterer, near the Cannon-Street Railway Station, on March 16, 1876. It had passed through several hands before it came to Mr. Smithers; and all that I have as yet been able to learn of its past history is that it came from Norway. Some one who has had the bird seems to have been aware that it was something out of the common, as I found a piece of cotton wool had been placed in the œsophagus, no doubt to prevent the feathers being soiled by the escape of matter through the mouth; and judging from its appearance, the wool had been there some considerable time.

“The weight of the bird, which was in very fair condition, was a trifle over 1 lb. 9 oz. The weight of a grey hen, which I weighed for the purpose of comparison, I found to be 1 lb. 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ oz.

“On dissection the hybrid proved to be a male. The intestines and cæca were as nearly as possible exactly like those of the grey hen, except that the intestine of the hybrid (measured from the gizzard to the lower end of the cæca) was 3 inches shorter than in the grey hen, the length between these points being, for the grey hen 54 inches, for the hybrid 51 inches. The length of the cæca in both was 24 inches.

“The crop was empty; but the gizzard contained a quantity of small stones, most of them of white quartz, and a quantity of twigs and vegetable matter, including one bud of a birch catkin. I turned the contents of the gizzard out into a small basin of warm water; and these, when stirred, emitted rather a sweet aromatic smell, which must have arisen from the vegetable matter which the bird had eaten.

“Thinking something might be learnt from the colour of the pectoral muscles when cooked, I had the muscles of the hybrid and of the grey hen baked. Those of the grey hen then presented the usual contrast characteristic of the Black Grouse; but the muscles of the hybrid were nearly white, the lower muscle being slightly brighter in colour than the upper one. The flesh of the hybrid was much inferior in flavour to that of the black Grouse, being rather dry and tasteless, much like the flesh of a red-legged Partridge. I have preserved the breast-bone and pelvis; and they accompany this memorandum.”

I may remark that, so far as my own experience goes, and from what I have ascertained from the various Swedish and Russian

